MONTEREY NEWS

December 2012
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The Town

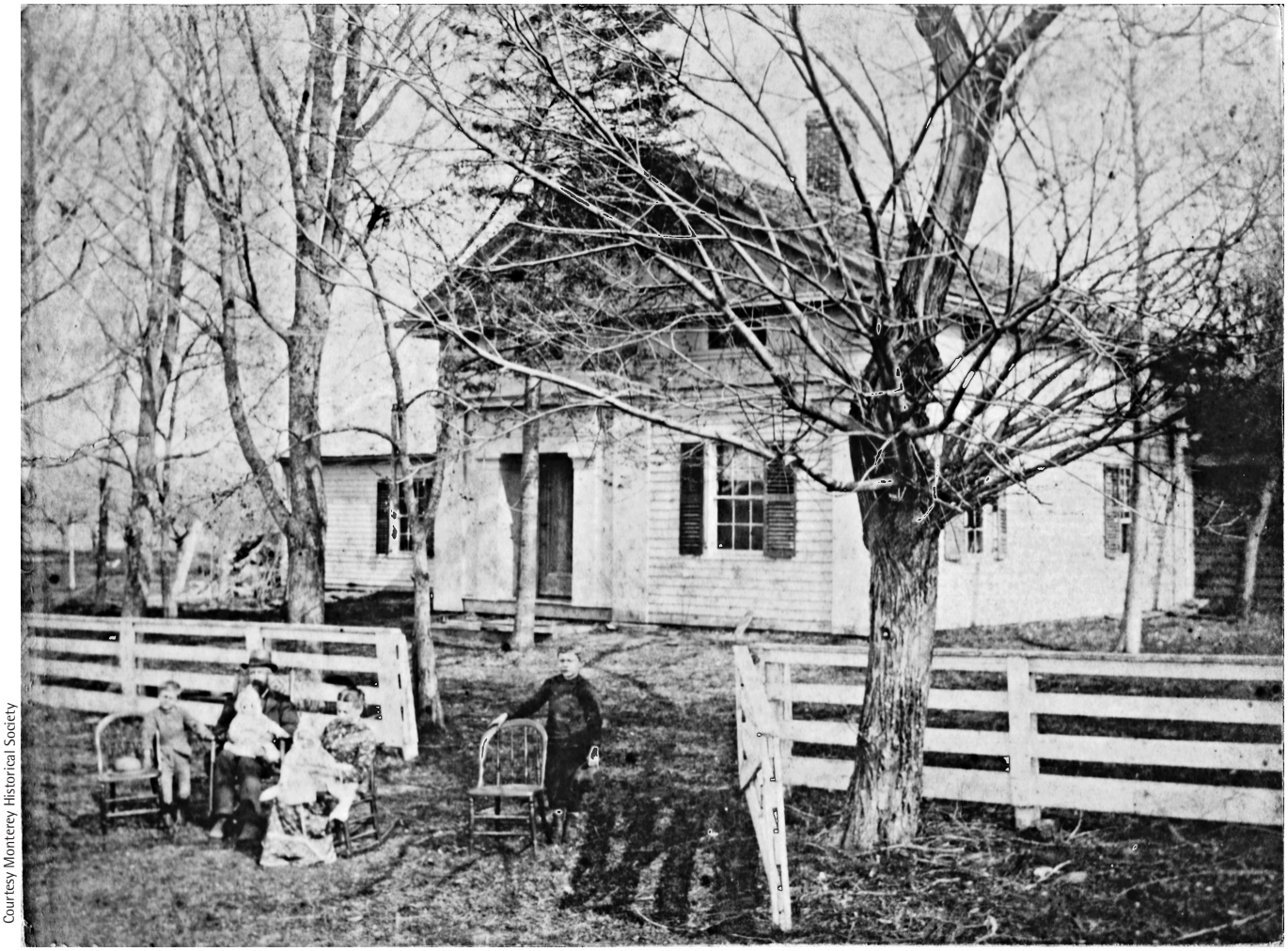
by Susan Gallant

Should the Waters Rise

During the month of November, hazard mitigation and disaster planning have been topics of ongoing discussion by the Select Board. These subjects have become increasingly relevant in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Lake Buel

One area of Monterey that has been especially vulnerable to flooding from Lake Buel is Hebert's Cove. The Konkapot River is connected with Lake Buel at the Hartsville end by a side stream that has very little elevation change. Normally water flows from Lake Buel into the Konkapot through this stream, but in times of high water or when the Konkapot becomes obstructed with downed tree limbs and other debris, the flow can reverse, flooding the shores of Lake Buel. The solution is to keep the



Courtesy Monterey Historical Society

This photo of the Miner house was taken in the fall of 1883. Wilbur Miner and Mary, his wife, were holding the twins Lester and Julius. Their older brothers were Arthur, to the left, and Henry to the right. The house, now Stan and Edie Ross's house, was in the Miner (sometimes spelled Minor) family for many years. The Monterey Historical Society has had this picture on loan from Julius Miner's daughter, Frances Turner. Julius Miner's Monterey walks continue this month on p. 10.

river unobstructed, but this is an expensive undertaking and securing funding has been an ongoing exercise in frustration. What's more, the work that can be done in rivers is limited and can only take place under special permit from both federal and state agencies. A meeting with state and local officials was held in December 2011 to discuss what needs to be done to prevent Lake Buel from flooding homes that surround it.

As a follow up to that meeting, the Select Board requested a conference call to determine what, if any, progress has been made on legislation that would provide funding and allow the necessary work to take place. On the phone for the November 5th conference call were Rich Zingarelli of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Bob Levy and Dan Moriarity of the Hebert's Cove Homeowners' Association, whose homes have been damaged by flood waters; Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Kerry Sullivan from Rep. Pignatelli's office; and Senator Ben Downing. A representative from New Marlboroough was asked to join the conversation but was unable to do so.

Dan Moriarity reported that in September 2008, New Marlborough and Monterey applied for a grant for an engineering study that was turned down by the Hazard Mitigation Program of the DCR. Dan added that other funds were granted for other projects but not for Lake Buel. Senator Downing promised to follow up on this as would Zingarelli, who was unaware of this application.

If funding weren't an issue, asked select board member Muriel Lazzarini, what other steps would need to be taken so that the rivers could be cleared. In response, Zingarelli speculated that approvals from the local conservation commission and the DEP would be needed, adding that there are limitations to what can be done in rivers,

Going forward, the Town of Monterey will coordinate with Representative Pignatelli's staff to arrange a meeting with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and New Marlborough. Starting with BRPC will help to pull together and identify all the participants who would be involved in approving plans and establishing a working group. DCR could participate, as well as other appropriate agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection to determine the permit process, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Senator Downing suggested that he and Pignatelli should be included as well.

Lake Garfield

When Director of Operations Maynard Forbes met with the Select Board on November 19 to discuss paperwork that needed to be signed for engineering work on Main Road and the drainage problem in front of the General Store (these will be fixed in the spring, since the asphalt plants are closed for the season), the Board took the opportunity to ask Forbes about the emergency action plan for Lake Garfield if the dam should fail. Forbes reported that a procedure is in place to notify people in both Monterey and New Marlborough. He also said that an engineer inspects the dam every two years.

On November 26, Building Commissioner Don Torrico and Alan Salamon of the Planning Board joined the Select Board meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a bylaw that would allow people living in flood-prone areas to file claims under FEMA or MEMA. This topic will require extensive and ongoing discussions and examination. The Planning Board will begin by moving the conversation forward.

Police Report

Chief Gareth Backhaus joined the November 19th Select Board meeting to report on the following recent activity:

- Multiple complaints from Blue Hill Road about suspicious activity.
- Complaints from three different residents of Norwalk Acres about the operator of an ATV who has been cutting trails on private property without permission from the landowners.
- Shots being fired on Hupi Road; police determined they were coming from a shooting range on private property.
- Loose dog on Pixley Road that was nowhere to be found by the time police arrived.

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Chorus Angelicus
Directed by Karen Sovak and Greg Wilfrid, The Chorus Angelicus Training and Junior Choir will perform traditional and contemporary carols from around the world. The Farmington River Elementary School Chorus share a few selections they have prepared.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, volunteers from Monterey and surrounding communities gathered to assemble the ice-skating rink behind the Monterey fire station. Weather permitting, the rink usually opens around January 1. There are free youth and adult skates available for use at the rink, which will be open from 7 am–9 pm everyday. An activities schedule, including youth and adult hockey, is posted at the rink. (Photo by Justin Kaye)

- Loose pig on Main Road that was successfully herded back to its home at Gould Farm.
- Lockout at the General Store.
- False alarms on Stevens Lake and Beartown Mountain Roads.
- Call about someone yelling on Mt. Hunger Road.
- Small tree down on Mt. Hunger Road.
- Numerous calls came about an alleged incidence of animal abuse at the transfer station. According to one witness, a woman was "walking" her dog from inside her car. The dog was attached to a rope the woman held while she was driving the car. Another dog, also owned by the same woman, was following the car unleashed. At one point, the dog on the rope was about to run in front of the moving car, and that's when shocked observers began yelling at the woman to stop.

SBRSD

At the request of the Select Board, Michael Singleton, superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, and Bruce Turner, the school district's business administrator, joined the Select Board meeting on November 19 to discuss budget issues and how Monterey fits into the grand scheme of things.

Issues brought up included the budget going forward, including the higher cost of transportation resulting from new pollution standards and contract negotiations with the various unions.

When discussing capital expenditures, Mr. Singleton admitted that the district has not maintained as it should have the three outlying schools in Egremont, Monterey, and New Marlborough. He went on to

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explain that some consider this issue to be a matter of ownership, meaning that if a town owns a building, then that town, and not the district, should pay for its upkeep. Other matters discussed during the course of the meeting included the school district's steady decrease in enrollment. Mr. Singleton said enrollment is largely dependent on the degree to which towns are family friendly, which includes the cost of owning or renting a house and the availability of employment, besides, of course, the general state of the economy. One area that SBRSD takes great pride in is its special-education program. All special-education programs throughout the state are audited regularly, and feedback is provided on areas that need improving. The recent audit of SBRSD's program came back without comment, meaning there was nothing that needed to be improved or corrected, which, according to Mr. Singleton, is unheard of.

Cell Tower

Well, the cell tower on Main Road is built, but don't go running in its direction to see how many bars appear on you cell phone because it has no generator to give it juice. Apparently, the generator needs a cement pad to sit on, and supposedly that won't be poured until the spring. Once the generator is in place, a fence must be put up around it. Then, and only then, will parts of Monterey be cell-phone accessible.

And in other news . . .

Town Treasurer Pat Mielke requested that Bethany Mielke be brought on as a permanent, part-time assistant treasurer. The Select Board approved the request.

Wendy Jensen had high praise for Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe's work on the town's website and her timely email announcements. ॐ

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday .....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

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Nov. 6th Election Results in Monterey

Five hundred and thirty-six of 745 eligible Monterey voters (72 percent) turned out for the November 6th election. Here are Monterey results for the contested races:

President
Johnson (Libertarian): 6
Obama (D): 420
Romney (R): 97
Stein (Green-Rainbow): 9

US Senate
Warren (D): 403
Brown (R): 126

Gov. Council
Albano (D): 339
Franco (R): 89

State Representative
Laugenour (Green-Rainbow) 76
Pignatelli (D) 425

Question 1 (right to auto repair info)
Yes: 409
No: 87

Question 2 (death with dignity)
Yes: 376
No: 128

Question 3 (legalize medical marijuana)
Yes: 367
No: 143

Question 4 (nonbinding, democracy amendment)
Yes: 412
No: 51

Question 5 (nonbinding, budget for all)
Yes: 388
No: 76

SBRSD School Committee
(2 of 10 seats contested, both Sheffield)
Dennis Sears: 203
Bonnie Silvers: 198
William Tighe): 118

Dennis Sears and Bonnie Silvers were the winners district-wide.

Monterey picked the winner in all of the races except for Question 2, which won in Berkshire County but was defeated statewide.

Thanks to Town Clerk Deborah Mielke, Assistant Clerk Linda Thorpe, Constable Ray Tryon, volunteer workers John and Stella Bodnar, Rick Mielke, Barbara Tryon, Ruth Champigny, and Norma Champigny, and counters Mari Enoch, Laurie Shaw, Maggie Leonard, Carol Edelman, David Dempsey, Donna Dempsey, Kay Purcell, Paula Moats, Maureen McFarland, Denise Andrus, Gail Heath, and Pat Mielke for overseeing a smooth day and evening at the polls in Monterey.

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What's Happening at Monterey General Store

No sooner do we recuperate from Thanksgiving turkey and all the delicious trimmings than we find it is almost December holiday time. Scott Cole, proprietor of the Monterey General Store, is busy taking a lot of special orders for pies, cookies, and various other food items appropriate for Hanukah, Christmas, and the New Year celebration.

In the few months the General Store has been open, Scott has enjoyed talking with customers so they know not to be limited by what is on his menu. In addition to his menu of basic baked goods, he's prepared to help customers supplement a dinner or cater a party or simply give a gift.

A lot of special items have already arrived in the store for holiday gift giving, such as smaller and individually wrapped cheeses, and other items that work well in gift baskets. And if you don't already have gift baskets, Scott will be selling wooden Shaker baskets in several sizes. "They make delightful gifts," he assured me.

Perhaps best of all, Scott will be packaging his own cookies, jams, and biscotti in special bags for gifts. For fellow chocolate-chip-cookie aficionados, be forewarned that they don't have a long shelf life, so while they're wonderful to eat, his shortbread items are more "shelf stable."

Right around Thanksgiving, Scott started decorating the store with fresh greenery and simple lights. "Festive but not extravagant," as he put it.

Scott counts many local artisans among his friends and is pleased to host a "popup" shop of gifts they make. There are elegant wooden spoons carved by Paul Campus. There are striking hand-crocheted animal-head masks by Huck del Signore. And John Elling, a graphic designer who prints the store's t-shirts, is making a batch in a variety of colors for holiday gifts. Huck and John represent a group of other young artists whose work Scott plans to feature.

Among the gift items for sale at the store for the holidays is the line of cards created by Claudia Martin, a freshman at Mt. Everett High School and one of the store's part-time staff. She drew the designs by hand, scanned them into her computer, and then printed them. They make lovely invitations or note cards. Claudia also created a series of gift tags; she is not just a serious artist, but quite entrepreneurial as well.

What with the holiday season promising to be busy, Scott is happy to be welcoming back Grace Mendel, who will be home from college. Grace worked in the store in the summer, helping Scott with the prep work. "I'm going to take advantage of school breaks to hire part-time workers," he says.

Scott is pleased that the weekend brunches have been busy since he opened. "I wish we could offer more," he sighs. "It's painful for me not to be able to do pancakes or fill omelets. But right now I've got three cook-top surfaces in the entire kitchen, so I need to be judicious about what we offer."

For those looking forward to a wider menu selection, you'll be pleased to learn that in January Scott plans to embark on a Kickstarter program to raise money for the kitchen. More about that next year.

—Laurily K. Epstein

Christmas Eve at Monterey Meetinghouse

The Christmas Eve service of story and song will be at 7 pm on December 24 in the Monterey Meetinghouse. A wonderful community event, this celebration is open to all. Please come!

School Notes

Evan Sylbert, son of **Lisa Smyle** and **Jon Sylbert**, made the high honor roll for the fall trimester at Berkshire Country Day School. Evan is in the seventh grade.

—We would like to publish news about the activities and accomplishments of Monterey students. Please email them to montereynews9@gmail.com. —Ed.

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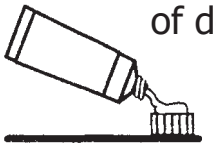

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Route 23 Monterey

November Wildlife Report

Early in the month Pauline Banducci wrote from Gould Farm telling of evening grosbeaks, both males and females, on the feeder and on the ground. A few days later there was one male in the crabapple tree, feasting on dried fruits. Also, on November 10, Pauline saw a fox sparrow, "plump and reddish brown," and two kinds of nuthatches, red-breasted and white-breasted.

Down beside Lake Buel, Frank Ashen was visited on November 18 by a handsome bald eagle, high up in a tree right beside his porch.

On November 11, Will and Glynis Marsh had a visit from a bobcat, maybe the same one they have seen before. This wild cat "ambled leisurely around our backyard, then sat down and looked around for a while in our side yard." Will also reports three deer in the yard a week or so later. They were casual and so was he, and they all forgot about each other and continued their business. Later Will went out and looked around. There they still were, but now that they were noticed, they took off.

A bobcat visited Will and Glynis Marsh on River Road (photos by Glynis), and Frank Ashen snapped the bald eagle beside Lake Buel.

Turkeys are still around town, but not the turkey vultures, Will tells us, as he has seen none of these since last month.

Having traveled east to Berlin, Mass., last week, I can tell you there are both types of turkeys there, still. It must be what we call a "different zone," as I also saw a skunk cabbage sprout already poking up near a lively little brook where we took a walk. Here at home on East Hupi Road, we saw the signs of a thorough visit by one fox, the night of our first snow. He or she inspected the chicken house, the woodshed, and the compost, then headed on before the sun came up.

And Maureen Banner sent along her photo of a millipede.

Thank you for sending me your wildlife news.

—Bonner McAllester
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Hurricane Sandy 2012

Many Monterey second-home owners live in New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut and were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Below Ed Salsitz tells about his experience in Manhattan. I would like to have stories form other people about their experiences, and will publish more of them as I receive them. All of us in the Monterey community want to know how our neighbors fared. —Ed.

We left Monterey earlier than usual on Sunday, October 28, anticipating disruptions because of Hurricane Sandy. Metro North was operating normally, and there were no problems in Grand Central Terminal.

The supermarkets were mobbed, and most of the shelves were empty by late afternoon. The subways would stop running at 7 pm, and buses at 9 pm. Staff at Beth Israel Medical Center where I work were mandated to stay overnight, and in most cases would have no way to get home, with all public transportation out of service. Many of us were skeptical about the need for these emergency precautions, before any signs of the storm had arrived. Similar preparations, including mandatory evacuations for Hurricane Irene, had proved premature and unnecessary.

Monday the 29th was a bit cloudy and windy, but nothing alarming. The city was in emergency mode, with no public transportation, and most people staying home. Early Monday evening the wind became very strong and heavy rain began. I was in my apartment watching news coverage of the flooding in Staten Island, the Jersey Shore, and lower Manhattan. These were all in the mandatory evacuation zones. At about 8 pm, the lights flickered—not common in Manhattan, and a few seconds later the power was out. I looked out the window of my nineteenth-floor apartment on 19th Street, and everything was dark south of the Empire State Building. Candles and flashlights were providing some light in the apartments, but mostly it was dark across lower Manhattan.

We had filled the bathtub with water, had some flashlights and candles, and a battery powered radio. Blackouts are uncommon in Manhattan, and I expected the power would be restored quickly.

On Tuesday, the full impact of the destruction and even deaths from Sandy were being reported. We had no power, no water, no phones—landline or cell. I walked down nineteen flights with a small flashlight—the stairwells were pitch black. My hospital was the only one operating below 34th Street, on generator power. Incredibly, both Bellevue and New York University Hospitals were flooded, lost their generator power, and had to be evacuated. The response of all emergency workers in the city was remarkable.

We were told that power would be out for at least four to five days. Every day I would leave my apartment at sunrise and not return till the evening. Walking up nineteen flights was a challenge for me, and so I only did this once a day. My hospital was very busy due to the closure of other hospitals. This created many medical challenges, which were all managed well. Many staff members "lived" in the hospital for the entire week.

On Wednesday the 31st, some of the buses and subways resumed service, but many tunnels were still flooded. We were all getting worn out due to lack of power. Many people moved in with friends or family above 34th street, or were lucky to get a hotel room. I was fortunate to be able to shower and clean up in the hospital. Our bathtub water supply was all gone by now.

Climbing up the nineteen flights, with no power, water, or phone service was getting old. We had to throw out the food in the fridge, and start hauling fresh water up the stairs.

The enormity of the destruction and the forty-three deaths in New York City were mindboggling. It put my temporary discomfort into perspective. Some of my colleagues lost their homes, and some had neighbors who had died.

Finally Friday, November 2, arrived. Metro North had restored service to Southeast, and I could get a taxi to Dover Plains to get my car. When I arrived in Monterey, my neighbor told me the power had been out for a few days but all was back now. No tree damage. Water coming out of the faucets, and toilets flushing—first time since Monday evening.

The power returned to Manhattan late Friday evening.

I had a dental appointment the following week. Yvonne, the dental assistant, lives near the water in Brooklyn. She described how the water suddenly rushed into her apartment, quickly reaching the ceiling. She feels lucky to be alive and is living with her sister.

For most of us, life has returned to normal. But for far too many the severe aftermath continues. Homes have vanished or are damaged beyond repair. Life has been turned upside down. Many relief organizations are accepting contributions.

—Edwin A. Salsitz

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Alternatives to Replacing Your Windows

Have old, drafty windows got you down? Join Aric Brown from the Center for EcoTechnology on Saturday, December 15, 2012, at the Berkshire Athenaeum Library, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, at 11 am to learn about a great alternative to replacing your older, single pane windows—Winserts.

Winserts are custom-sized kits for one interior storm that can be installed in a window in your home. These transparent interior storm windows decrease cold window drafts and can bring an existing single-pane window up to Energy Star standards. This is the first workshop in a two-part series and is cosponsored by the City of Pittsfield.

RSVP preferred! Please contact Aric Brown at 413-445-4556 ext. 30 with RSVPs and questions, or email aric.brown@cetonline.org.

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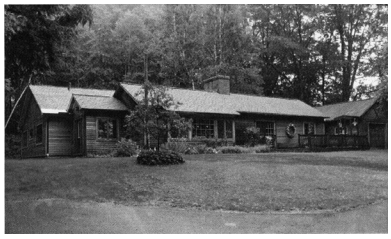

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Monterey Library Notes

Ebooks Available

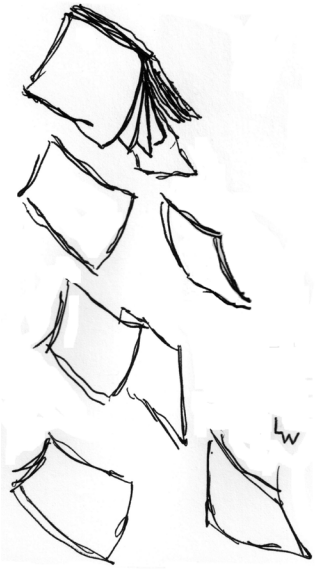
We are asked more and more often about ebooks. Does the Monterey Library have any? Yes! For anyone so inclined there are downloadable library items available 24/7 from the Monterey Library. How can you do that when we're only open eighteen and a half hours?

The Monterey Library belongs to the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing Network. As a member of this network the Monterey Library has been able to provide its patrons with materials from all over Massachusetts—books, DVDs, audios, and more! For the past several years CWMARS has also been building a collection of downloadable items including ebooks, audio books, and videos. At this point the videos take a very long time to download, but do you realize an ebook can be downloaded at our low speeds in a reasonable amount of time?

To find out more about all of these CWMARS benefits, you need a CWMARS card—come into the library and get one if you need to—and then you can from your own home, or whereever you can connect to the Internet, google CWMARS DIGITAL CATALOG. The home page is full of the newest titles, FAQs, and individual instructions for the newest devices. Look up your smart phone or your Kindle, and the instructions from the website will help you load the app or whatever you need to do to access these materials. There is even an online form to make your suggestions about what they should buy. Over the past couple of years the process has been made easier—once you've established the link and downloaded an item there's no looking back. Ebooks will never completely replace the books we have in the Monterey Library, but in this day and age they have become more and more popular. An estimated 90 million ereader devices are out there. They aren't for everyone, but if you have one—or get one for the holidays—know that the Monterey Library is a member of a resource-sharing network that is committed to providing materials in whatever format necessary in the spirit of the greatest lending libraries.

One final note: the staff and I have missed some of you who download at home. There may not be a need for you to come here to get materials, but you are always more than welcome to stop in to say hi and take in the latest art exhibit or join in a book discussion!

—Mark Makuc, Library Director



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Recent Acquisitions at Monterey Library

Below is a sample of new material in the Monterey Library in recent months. Come in and browse.

These books and movies are newly released and in high demand by all users of CWMARS. If you'd like to borrow them you will probably need to place a hold on them through your CWMARS account, or you can call the library (528-3795) or come by during open hours.

A list of new titles at the Monterey Library is now available online at the CWMARS site (http://www.cwmars.org/new_titles). Just click on Monterey Library (or any other library of interest) to see the recent arrivals.

DVDs

The Closer. The Complete First Season
The Incredible Hulk
Magic City. The complete First Season
The Shaggy Dog
Walk the Line
Franklin
Injustice
Moonrise Kingdom
The Raven
Forrest Gump
The Hunger Games
Vexed. Series 1
Young James Herriot
Sophie and Sheba
The Salt of Life
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
Digi-Tech
I Wish
The Amazing Spider Man
Brave
Vera, Set 2
Chernobyl Diaries
Crooked Arrows
Prometheus
Ruby Sparks
The Expendables 2

Adult Fiction

Harry Lipkin, Private Eye, Barry Fantoni
The Woman at the Light, Joanna Brady
Sutton, J.R. Moehringer
Resurrection Express, Stephen Romano
Blasphemy, Sherman Alexie
The Laughter House, Paul Cleave
San Miguel, T.C. Boyle
The Turning, Francine Prose
Winter of the World, Ken Follett
The Lincoln Conspiracy, Timothy L. O'Brien
The Bone Bed, Patricia Cornwell
The Casual Vacancy, J. K. Rowling

Adult Nonfiction

The Guardians of All Things, Michael S. Malone
The 20th Century in Poetry, ed: Michael Hulse & Simon Rae
My Berlin Kitchen, Luisa Weiss
The Spark of Life, Frances Ashcroft
A Good Man, Mark K. Shriver
500 Days: Secrets & Lies in the Terror Wars, Kurt Eichenwald

Audio Books

Delusion in Death, J. D. Robb
The Panther, Nelson DeMille
NW, Zadie Smith
Severe Clear, Stuart Woods
The Shoemaker's Wife, Adriana Trigiani
The Replacement Wife, Eileen Goudge
The Art of Fielding, Chad Harbach
Two Rings – A Story of Love and War, Millie Werber & Eve Keller
Death Cloud, Andrew Lane
The Bone Bed, Patricia Cornwell

Young Adult

Henry Franks: A Novel, Peter Adam Salomon
Son, Lois Lowry
That's Not a Feeling, Dan Josefson
All You Never Wanted, Adele Griffin.
Into the Woods (Graphic) J. Torres, art by Faith Erin Hicks
Seconds Away: A Mickey Bolitar Novel, Harlan Coben
Four Secrets, Margaret Willey

Youth

Drama (Graphic), Raina Telgemeier, color by Gurihiru
Cow Boy:A Boy and His Horse, (Graphic), story, Nate Cosby; art, Chris Eliopoulos
Another Dirt Sandwich: Some Rambling and Hilarious Exploits of Tbyrd Fearlessness (Graphic), Ray Friesen
The Pirate's Handbook, Margarette Lincoln

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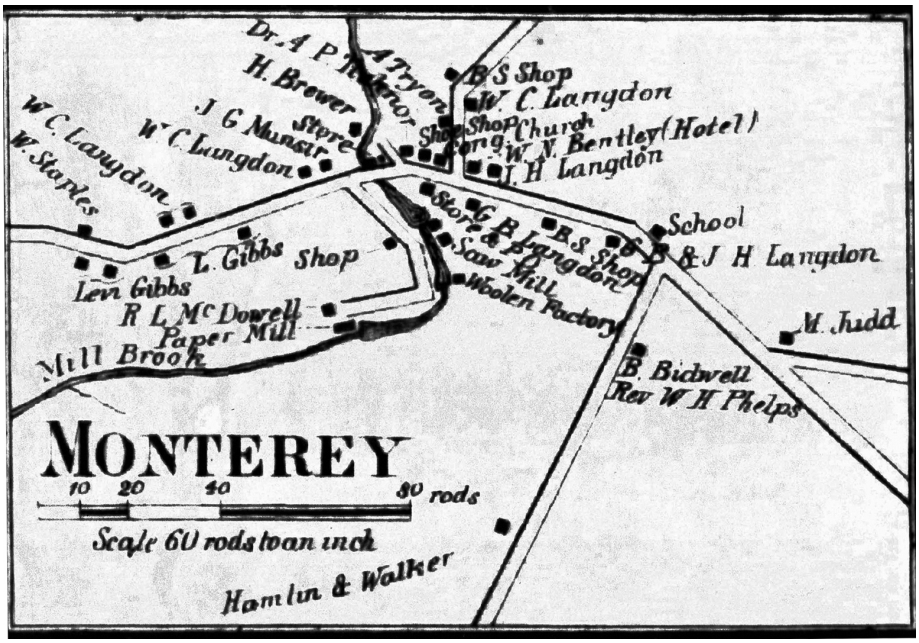
Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections (1940)

Part 3: Willow Glen and Park

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society



From an 1858 map (courtesy Monterey Historical Society).

The growth of large willows along the river was encouraged as a supposed preventive of malaria. The dam was the first one in town. The builder, Captain John Brewer, was given a grant conditioned upon his agreement to saw for all of the colonists at a reasonable rate. The sawmill was on the Library side of the river. Walk under the rear of the Langdon Store [the Monterey General Store] to see timbers cut by Brewer's up and down saw.

On the nearer side was a tannery, potash ash and ash pearl works. Notice, a little farther, a stone curbed well. This was the water supply for the two-story boardinghouse on the opposite side of the road. Look part way up the bank and see a flume. Follow this, till you see what appears to be a cellar site. Here was suspended a great overshot wheel supplying power for a paper mill above it. Observe where the raceway crossed the road.

The paper was manufactured from rye straw raised by local farmers. The paper, used mainly as wrapping-paper, was brown, flecked with small bits of straw and quite brittle. Look back at the waterfall and note the deep round holes or pits worn in the rocks by the falling water. Looking up at the falls, see a foundation wall on the left. This was the site of a barn that housed the straw and supplies.

After the paper mill burned down, this shed was used as a slaughter-house in connection with a meat market which stood at the present site of the grange sheds. Many local sheep and cattle here last saw the light of day. Adjoining were hogpens and these hogs dined sumptuously upon the offal from the slaughter-house until, in turn, they met their own doom. Abattoirs then seldom used the present methods so when terrific squealing was heard in the village, all knew that fresh pork was to be had.

On down the stream notice, on the upper side, a thick, growth of rushes [equisetum, or "horsetails"]. Geologists say that these plants grew before trees existed. They were formerly used as abrasives. Take some home and try your luck at polishing your tin or brass.

Presently, we come to another dam. At one time this mill pond was very clear and much of the town supply of ice was harvested from it. Walk in front of the dam

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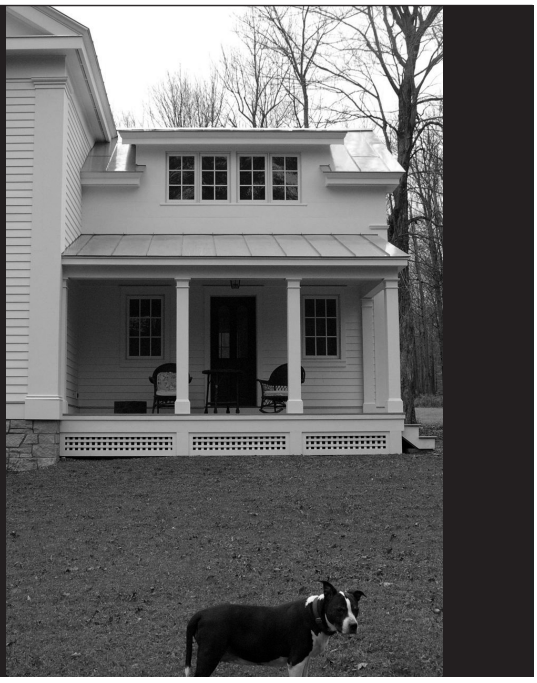

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and note the former locations of the flume, the bulkhead and the raceway. This dam supplied power for a combination mill which used a turbine wheel. The mill was a sawmill, a grist mill, a planing mill, a lath mill, and a shingle mill, all in one.

One day the mill was stopped and the water drawn off by turning the gate. There was great excitement. The owner's son had sneezed while looking down the bulkhead and out had popped his artificial teeth. After much time and effort, they were recovered.

This was by no means the only time that the water was drawn off, for a good miller was known by his keeping his dam clean. The melting of the snows with the spring rains and the thawing of the soil brought great quantities of soil and debris from the hills into the river. These were carried along by the stream until they came to the dams where they lodged. This took room needed for the storage of water but made ideal places for wild life to live and thrive.

Everybody was interested in the cleaning of the dam. This was done by opening the gate and, when the water was low, puddling the mud into the flowing stream. It was great fun to watch for what might pass through the gate urged on by the puddling process. As the water lowered, the frightened trout would dart up the stream but many kinds of fish were carried by the rush of water through the gate and spread widely over the low ground below the dam.

As the water drained off, many fish were stranded and could readily be gathered by hand. Large pickerel and suckers, turtles and great eels, bull heads, watersnakes and many others were all driven forth by the puddling from their temporary security in the mud. It was a sight to enjoy and long remember.

[From this location downstream much has changed since the 1940s, and the footing is precarious. We are sure Julius would not want you to try following the next two paragraphs on foot]

Following down the stream, we come to a foot-bridge**.** Crossing the bridge we continue down the stream into a pine grove. Look for unusual types of yellow or rose toadstools and try to locate some which have been partially eaten away by turtles. We now approach Turtle Brook. Cross it and go through the barway uphill through the deep dark woods.

Soon we come to an open pasture. Notice the inviting shade of a large maple tree on the knoll. Looking back toward the village, let us not overlook the large thistles at the foot of the knoll. In late summer, there will be puffy mounds of thistledown under them where the goldfinches have been feeding. Let us return to the Center.

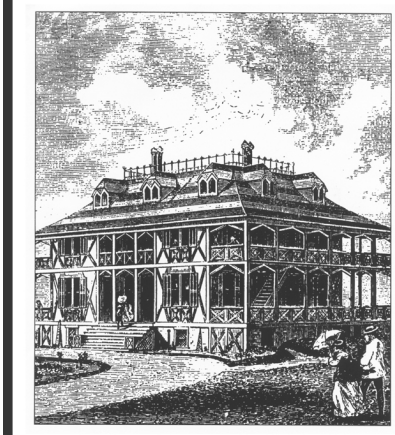
Community Center Talk at Dec. 19th Community Potluck

Eileen Lawlor's presentation at the November Potluck on stress reduction was very informative, timely, and appreciated. I am sure some of us have incorporated her breathing techniques into daily life.

For the December Potluck, we have the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee, the citizen group that is working to renovate Edith Wilson's house to become the Monterey Community Center. The center will be a place for all to use for cultural, artistic, educational, and social gatherings and functions—an important town-owned facility with lots of parking! The group has launched a Capital Campaign to raise funds for the renovation. At the supper, they will tell us about the opportunities, the plans, and the requirements.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 19, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself.

—Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce



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From the Meetinghouse . . .

No Snow on the Mountain

Mary Kate Jordan

While the people make the place, I've also often felt that the place helps make the people. At least, it colors this person's world view. Case in point: When I lived in Manhattan, I was always aware of living on an island. I'd routinely pay to drive across bodies of water; I'd "go to the mainland" to indulge in New England's—now our—foliage, apples, pumpkins in the fall, and ski areas in the winter.

Perhaps more pertinent point: once again I'm writing my December column at the foot of the mostly bare, mostly vertical, massive rock formation called Superstition Mountain in Apache Junction, Arizona—AJ, to the locals. There may or may not be snow in the Berkshires this December, but with a daytime temp hovering around 70º F outside the adobe house where I'm nestled, there's definitely no snow on the mountain here today.

The garden attached to the house is adobe-walled, too, to keep out the wandering herds of javelinas. I'm surrounded by saguaro, cholla, and other varieties of cactus; mesquite, citrus, and palm trees; brightly flowering orange and yellow lantanas. While the elevation's too low for the scent of chaparral to fill the air, there's a trail a few miles away where I can remedy that lack.

The night air's filled with western-coyote cacophony (nothing like the melodies of their eastern relatives.) Mornings routinely bring clear skies and donkey bray. All this to say, right now it's a little hard for me to get into a sleigh-bells-ring-winter-wonderland frame of mind.

I grew up southeast of Lake Erie, where the snow always started early and stayed late enough to wear out its welcome. There, reindeer pulling sleighs full of gifts seemed a natural, if unlikely, event, a kind of serendipity similar to tulips popping unbidden out of the ground in the spring. Later it came as a shock to realize that many of the most familiar–to-me cultural trappings of the Christian aspect of the season—reindeer, well-lit evergreens, holly, ivy, for example—came to me directly from nineteenth century Germany, courtesy of Britain's Queen Victoria. They came to her, of course, as an unbroken, if reinterpreted, line of pagan Solstice memorabilia.

Later yet, in my Manhattan years, I taught on Long Island, an art teacher in a primary school where early December sometimes brought snow but always brought the same question from each year's crop of kindergarteners: "Are you a Chanukah or a Christmas?" Back in those days, holiday art projects were seldom fodder for political scrutiny, and I was free to invite the kids to explore and to express themselves, each through the lens of his or her family creed. One sequence of those holiday art projects included a quasi-triangular pattern which, depending on its orientation on the page, each of the kids could use as a basis for either a Christmas tree or a dreidl. Sameness with difference was a rallying cry in that place, where people mostly honored dignity and diversity in much the same way as we mostly do here in Monterey.

It does occur to me that writing this column from Apache Junction is good for my soul. If I can depend on photos I've seen, most of the Middle Eastern geography sacred to the three People of the Book—Jews, Christians, Muslims—bears more resemblance to AJ than to 01245. As for the lands held sacred by the Neolithic ancestors of all of us—the ones who remain with us in memory at Solstice—who knows the details? The geography of the world in which they lived has been buried so long that the geography where their artifacts have surfaced isn't the land they knew. So I'll offer them the dignity of silence instead of speculation, and honor their diversity, wherever it rooted and grew, by wishing us all a hale and hearty, whole and happy 2013.

— Mary Kate Jordan

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Key to the World

Dedicated to June Keener-Wink and the memory of Walter Wink

"Within the love that once opened up the world to you—from the birth of a child to meeting your mate—is a key that can let you back into the world when that love is gone."

—Christian Wiman, from *Mortify Our Wolves*

Lazlo Biro,
a Hungarian journalist
invented the ballpoint pen.

This matters, somehow
when I go to write

holding the dream of another,
using it
to open a door –

and I cannot go far
without turning to Edison,

finding the whole room
lights up.

It's a key
to let us back in –

reaching for a pen, or
turning on the light

unlocks the love
they've left behind.

A spirit speaks, in the dream
that carries on –

of course,
in Africa or Palestine, a girl

picks up your book, and
leads her country –

gently, out of
war.

—M. Hamilton

A Snowy Day

The orange light blinking,
through the rough, pelting snow,
everyone goes,
home to their homes.
I stay out,
looking about,
the cold slippery snow,
landing on my feet.
I walk through the park,
a dog barks,
as I look into the wisping snow.
I hear a shout,
but no one's out,
as I step into the cold winds ahead.

—Charlotte Micklewright, Age 8,
New Marlborough Central School

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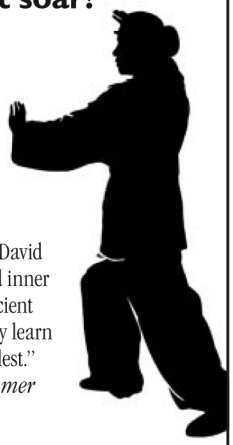

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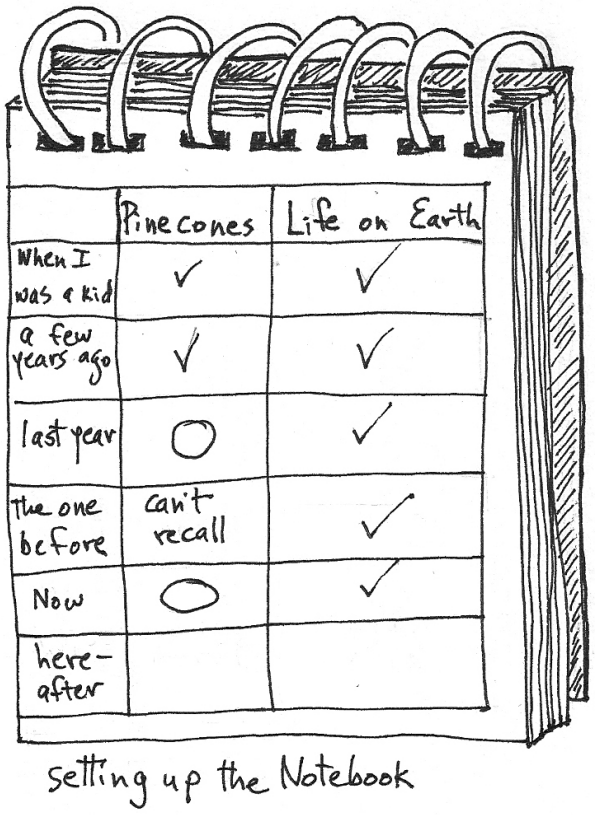
Pinecones, the Weather, and War

This is a good time to pick up pinecones for woodstove firestarters, only we don't have any pinecones here. The same was true last fall. The first time you just say, "Okay, pine trees taking a year off, no problem." You may secretly wonder if they ever took a year off before, if maybe a given pine tree takes two years to develop big mature cones which release their wind-borne seeds from high up in the trees and then drop to the ground. Maybe some trees are on an even-year cycle, and some on odd, so you'd have to be taking good notes to know which was which. Or maybe, like female humans in a dorm together, they eventually get on the same cycle schedule, for reasons of hormones or the moon or something, so now we get a year of no pinecones. But two years in a row?

As we get out our notebooks and organize them into pinecone hormonal tables for accurate data gathering, we have to wonder why we never felt like doing this before. We were insufficiently freaked, and though we may on some level have noticed a certain dearth of pinecones, we did not feel it to be a trend or harbinger or coal-mine canary. Not back then.



Setting up the Notebook

How come all of a sudden we are spooked by it now? It was a good summer for corn and potatoes here on our hillside. Brussels sprouts are also present in good number. Strictly speaking, these are not native players in these parts and they did get a fair amount of boosting and coddling by the farmer, namely me. We did not coddle the white pines, but they are great big trees and have been here forever and ought to be able to put up with a bit of weather.

The weather was odd last March, so although we have a full root cellar, there are no apples in there. Apples are not exactly native canaries either, having come over on ships along with most of my ancestors, who wanted to keep eating apples in their new home. They also brought earthworms, smallpox, the local industrial revolution, and the profit motive. I am not saying these things couldn't have evolved naturally over time here in the Berkshires, I am just saying we have no pinecones and this might not be a coincidence.

As I set up my notebook for pinecones, apples, and weather, I think about the recent 84-page document by the Pottsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analysis, commissioned by the World Bank. I get to think about it thanks to Chris Hedges, who read it and wrote about it in his recent column for the Truthdig newsletter. I have read other things by Chris Hedges, including one devastating book called What Every Person Should Know About War (Free Press, 2003). This is a Q and A book with questions young soldiers might like to ask, like "What will happen to my body after I die?" and "What does it feel like to kill someone?" The answers are quotes from medical and psychological studies. I don't think Hedges has written specifically about pinecones yet, but his recent Truthdig article gets us ready for the 2012 UN Conference on Climate Change by informing us that we are in for

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apocalypse as a result of a four-degree-Celsius global temperature change by the end of the century.

Strictly speaking, I don't suppose "we" are in for that exact apocalypse, since we'll all be playing the harp in some other heaven by then. Still, it feels weird to think there will be no harp playing here at home, doesn't it? No pinecones, no apples, no earthworms. There may still be some antique harps around.

What Every Person Should Know about Climate Change. Question: who will play the harps? Answer: the wind. What about my grandchildren, and their grandchildren—no harp playing? Answer: no harp playing, not them, not here. No Amazon rainforest, no corn and wheat crops, no coral reefs. Probably wind and old harps, though, yes.

What can I do? Set up that notebook! Keep track of the pinecones and everything else, don't leave anything out, and quit using fossil fuels and putting 35 billion metric tons of CO_2 into the atmosphere. These things will be possible only if we quit making war. This sounds radical, from my hillside, and surely I can live on Brussels sprouts and potatoes for some time, with or without the pinecones. Yes, I can, but not my grandchildren and theirs. They need the pinecones, the coral reefs, clean air, and cool oceans, as well as the good old harps.

—Bonner J. McAllester

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Help for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Every day new technology is being created to assist deaf and hard of hearing people with communication. We all communicate three ways: written, oral and with gestures or signs. People who are hard of hearing or deaf obviously have extra challenges in communicating and often rely on signs much more than people with average hearing. In addition to using sign language, people with hearing loss now can use many different types of technology to augment their methods of communication. Representatives from the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDDH) and United Cerebral Palsy were recently on hand locally to demonstrate these devices. The Town of Sheffield Commission on Disabilities sponsored this educational event at the Sheffield Senior Center on October 18. Our own Lisa Smyle from Monterey was the sign language interpreter. We also had the advantage of the CART system, which interprets the spoken word and projects it on a screen. This works well in a group meeting situation. Our CART interpreter was actually in Florida at the time and typing out what she heard in real time for the audience at the presentation in Sheffield. (For personal use with a computer you may look into a similar program called Dragon Dictate.)

High- and low-tech assistive devices can help with hearing and getting your message across in different situations—working, socializing, watching TV, attending meetings, etc. There are also devices for making your home safer in terms of alarms systems, such as flashing lights and bed shakers to work with smoke detectors. Some of the tools are to be used with a hearing aid, and many others are independent of hearing aid use.

The telephone company, Verizon, has a program to assist people with hearing loss or mobility impairments in obtaining the equipment they need to use the telephone.

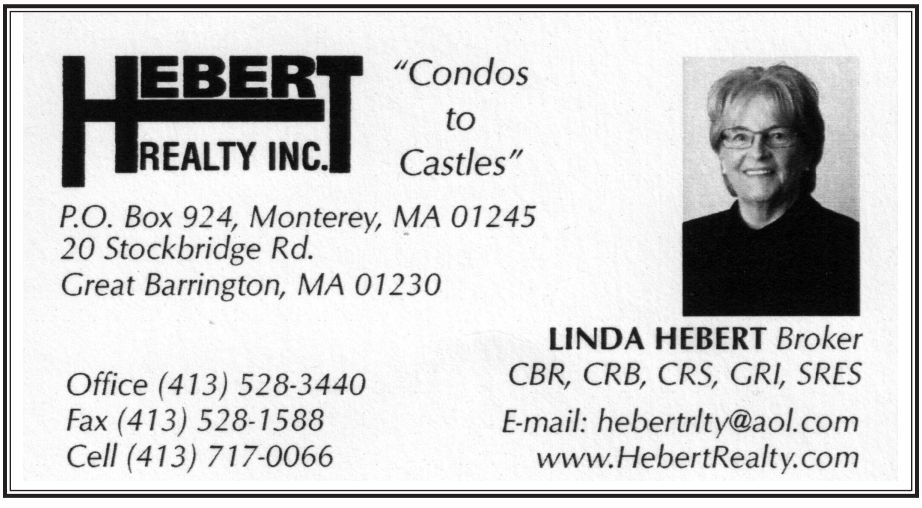
The United Cerebral Palsy agency has won a grant to loan out devices. They will meet with you or your loved one and help figure out which device might help you; then you look into borrowing or purchasing. If the purchase price is beyond your reach they may be able to assist you in researching funding sources.

At MCDDH the sole purpose is to serve people with hearing loss. Many of the staff people live with hearing loss, and they know what has worked for them and not worked. They provide advocacy, peer counseling, information and referral, and much more. The agencies listed below are nonprofit and respect your confidentiality and your rights and goals. Contacts are:

Carole Rossick of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mcdhh/; main line: 617-740-1600; direct line: 413-886-0515; Carole.Rossick@state.ma.us.

Dawn Matthews of United Cerebral Palsy, 413-442-1562; dmatthews@ucp-berkshire.org.

—Mary Makuc,
Monterey ADA Coordinator



Goat Farm

A country mile down the road named for its New Marlborough destination, beyond Lowland Farm, over a single lane wooden bridge, and to the left is a goat farm, shown on the map of Berkshire Grown. For the past thirty years, the American Alpine dairy herd of Susan Sellew has produced award-winning cheese. There visitors enjoy a super-clean barnyard and a welcoming proprietor. A visit with the kids, does, and bucks at Rawson Brook Farm makes a perfect family outing.

What may start out as a backwoods adventure can lead to the ultimate reward of your choice of three classic chèvres—garlic and chive, thyme and olive oil, or just plain—available for purchase at the farm. All are also available in the new Monterey General Store and in Gould Farm's Roadside Café, as convenient as picking up a copy of the *Monterey News*. Follow-up reorders for new friends can be found in regional specialty food shops.

Getting to know goats goes back 10,000 years to a time when they were domesticated for milk, meat, skins, and companionship, With westward exploration they were brought on ships as a fresh supply of food. They first came to this country on the *Mayflower* with the Pilgrims in 1620. Now there are more than 500 million around the world! Many are found in undeveloped, infertile countries on backyard subsistence farms, where a goat's digestive system is better than a cow's at producing protein on slim pickings.

Literary metaphors and totems of the goat are also found in Proverbs 30:29–31, where we read that the he-goat plays a leadership role (though perhaps a capricious one), assuming command at the head of a flock of followers—thus the saying "separating the goats from the sheep." According to the Net Insider Network, another, more modern saying is that goat cheese is a must on restaurant menus "to keep customers happy by giving them what they want."

We love our animals, both wild and domestic, and are truly blessed with those dairy farms that preserve the heritage of agricultural generations when youths were planted with a productive work ethic and, like a cash crop on fertile ground, would bear fruit for the rest of their lives. To this very day, down a country road in Monterey, a living tradition of an exemplary relationship between animals and people is being continued!

— George B. Emmons

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'Tis the Season

The holiday season is here once again. It's the day after Thanksgiving, and as I sit at my dining room table, staring out the window at the buildings and pastures of Rawson Brook Farm, I reflect on many things in life that I'm grateful for.

I'm thankful that President Obama won the 2012 election and that so many powerful and visionary women won seats in Congress, including Massachusetts's own Elizabeth Warren. The fights and gridlock in Washington are likely to continue right up until the holidays and then in the New Year. But, I'm thankful President Obama was re-elected and that I live in this great country—even with all its quirks and shortcomings.

I'm thankful for my roommates, two lovely ladies who enjoy many of the same things I do, whether it is going to the movies or the theater, taking day trips, or even taking a beginners lesson at a shooting range. I love that we can shop together, that we all like to cook, that we can plan a holiday party, or look forward to a weekend brunch together. They are wise and thoughtful individuals, and together we are muddling through many decisions that come with the twenty-something age range. I'm also grateful for my best friend, because even if we aren't as regularly in touch as we would both like, we remain kindred spirits.

I'm thankful for my wider DC community; DC itself is a place I can easily consider to be a second home now as I start my fourth year in the metro area. It's an intellectual, bustling city, with that wonderful blending of history and politics; I'm particularly thankful for the free Smithsonian museums and for cultural events such as the Folk Life festival and the National Book Fair. The city has a wealth of young smart people to meet and work with, a public transportation system that runs well (most of the time), and a wonderful public library system. I'm thankful for the parks, running trails and farmers' markets. I won't always say that I'm grateful for Congress, but I do love living in the nation's capital. I'm also thankful for the Jordan family; as a rock in my DC life, they've provided me a warm welcoming home for Tuesday evening dinners and *NCIS* since I moved to the city in 2009.

I'm thankful to still be part of the larger Roosevelt network; as an alumna, I feel a sense of purpose and focus in thinking about the future and the role of young people in policy discussions. I'm glad I can still mentor college students, while helping to build a new branch of the organization. I am grateful for those connections and conversations and for the collective efforts to contribute to public policy dialogue.

I'm thankful for my job, because even if it is not my dream position it offers unique challenges, and I am learning valuable lessons. I am thankful to be gainfully employed, and, as a silver lining, I'm grateful for a few key takeaways and for how much I've learned about education advocacy and policy.

I'm thankful for my wonderful alma mater, Middlebury College. My education continues to serve me well, and I'm so lucky to have such wonderful former professors who remain so supportive and involved with my life. I'm grateful for the larger community and network and for the love of education I took from the experience. I'm also thankful there is such a big wonderful Middlebury network in DC—some individuals are of course also close friends.

I'm thankful for my health and the good health of those I love; after a year of turmoil and the loss of family members, it is even more of a blessing. I'm glad I can return home somewhat frequently to spend time with family and friends here in the Berkshire Hills. I'm thankful for electronic means of communication that help us all stay connected in a busy world. I'm thankful to the *Monterey News*, and to all of you, for reading and supporting my monthly musings—a somewhat selfish venture to try and stay connected to this rich and wonderful community.

Above all, I'm thankful for my wonderful home and my family and close family friends; thank you for all the wisdom and guidance, over the years and on into the future. I wish you all a healthy and joyous holiday season.

—Tarsi Dunlop

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What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Leeky Mulch

Well, the only veggie left in the garden now are the leeks, other than the garlic cloves for next spring. The past few years I've pulled all of the leeks in the fall and tried keeping them in the cold but not freezing garage, essentially planted in a tub. They seemed to keep for a while this way but they also kept growing! A few of them turned to mush before I could get to them and they are just too good to waste! I've also cut off their tops and roots, washed them and tried to keep them in a plastic bag in the fridge . . . not a long-term storage solution. What a delicious vegetable! Related to both onions and garlic, leeks are very mild tasting but distinct in their flavor. This year I'm trying something different . . . leaving them right there in the garden and mulching (photo)!

We don't plant a lot of leeks, although we love them. We have been buying King Richard dormant leek plants from Johnny's Seeds as well as planting our own seedlings. Our little seedlings never quite seem to catch up to the live plants we purchase, but they are delicious, just not as big. Using a spike about 8" long and about ½" in diameter, I poke a deep hole in the ground and simply drop in the seedling/plant. There is no need to fill in the hole; the first watering or rain will slowly drop the soil into place. Easy!

So, I'm mulching the leeks this fall. One of nature's gifts to the soil is the deposition of leaves every fall. It seems a shame to me that so many people bag up these nutritious bits and ship them off! The organic matter is a great benefit to the soil, attracting worms and other beneficial bacteria as well as increasing water retention and keeping weeds at bay. It is best to compost the leaves before adding them to the garden soil, but if they are chopped up the leaves can be added directly to the garden as mulch. They have worked especially well mulching the garlic cloves over the winter and into the spring. And they are great in the garden paths.

The easiest way to chop the leaves is by running over them with the lawn mower which, with a little planning, throws them into manageable swaths to rake up and carry to the garden or composting area. Chopped up leaves are beneficial to the lawn also, so always leave some there too. I've dumped a couple piles of leaves near the garden to use for mulching wherever needed. I've added a good 10–12" thickness of chopped leaves around the leeks, hoping to keep the ground from freezing too solid. I'm hopeful I can then head out to the garden and dig the leeks as I need them over the winter.

Although potato leek soup is one of my personal favorites, I came across this recipe from Bon Appetit a few years ago and since we have year-round access to Monterey Chèvre, I thought I'd pass along this recipe instead. I generally shy away from lengthy recipes but I think this recipe is worth the effort; just eat it slowly! The leek confit is delicious by itself and can be frozen if you decide to buy up all of the leeks at the Farmers Market next year!

Wendy Jensen

Leek Confit and Belgian Leek Tart with Monterey Chèvre

(*Underlined ingredients are our own or locally obtained.*)

Leek Confit

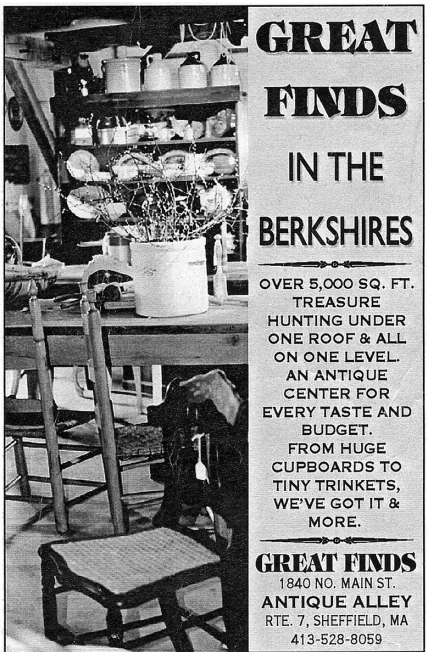
¼ cup unsalted butter

4 large leeks (white and pale green parts only), halved lengthwise, cut crosswise into ¼" slices (about 5 cups)

2 tablespoons water

½ tsp. salt

Melt butter in large pot over medium-low heat. Add leeks; stir to coat. Stir in water and salt. Cover pot; reduce heat to low. Cook until leeks are tender, stirring often, about 25 minutes. Uncover and cook to evaporate excess water, 2–3 minutes. Serve warm. DO AHEAD. Can be made one week ahead. Keep chilled. Or freeze. Rewarm before using.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Belgian Leek Tart
Crust
3-4 tablespoons of ice water
¾ tsp. apple cider vinegar
1½ cups unbleached all-purpose flour
¾ tsp. salt
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon chilled, unsalted butter, cut into ½" cubes
Filling:
½ cup High Lawn Farm whole milk
½ cup High Lawn heavy cream
1 large egg
1 large egg yolk
¼ tsp. salt
½ cup Monterey Chèvre, crumbled
1½ cups leek confit

Crust: Combine 4 T ice water and cider vinegar in small bowl. Blend flour and salt in food processor. Add butter and cut into flour using on/off turns until mixture resembles coarse meal. With machine running, slowly add water vinegar mixture, processing until moist clumps form. If dough seems dry, add ice water by teaspoonfuls. Gather dough into ball; flatten into disk. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Can be made ahead and refrigerated up to 3 days. Allow dough to soften slightly at room temperature before rolling out.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Roll dough out on lightly floured work surface to 12" round. Transfer to a 9"-diameter tart pan with removable bottom. Press dough onto bottom and up sides. Fold in overhang and press to extend dough ½" above side of pan. Line crust with foil and dried beans or pie weights. Bake until dough looks dry and set, about 30 minutes. Remove foil and beans and continue to bake until crust is pale golden, 20–25 minutes longer (may need to cover). Remove from oven and cool while preparing filling.

Filling: Whisk milk, cream, egg, egg yolk, and salt in medium bowl to blend. Sprinkle ¼ cup cheese over bottom of warm crust; spread leek confit over and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Pour milk mixture over. Bake until filling has puffed and is golden in spots, and center looks set, 35–40 minutes. Transfer to rack; cool slightly. Remove pan sides. Serve warm or at room temperature.

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

The Knox Gallery
Mirrors of Winter, and More

The Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library is celebrating its second anniversary this month with a light-infused and seasonal group exhibit, *Mirrors of Winter: Light and Reflection to Brighten Winter Days*. The exhibit will feature work in a variety of media by artists from Monterey and surrounding towns. The show will be open from December 1 to January 12 during Library hours.

The Gallery is preparing to host *Gould Farm: the First 100 Years*, an exhibit of Gould Farm history and archives, which will be open from January 19 to February 20.

Proposals for future exhibits are welcome. Proposal forms can be found in the Knox Room at the Library.

The Most Vulnerable in Berkshire County

Our most vulnerable population has no roof over their heads, and, unable to use the existing shelter system, they are relegated to the streets. In Pittsfield about thirty people are presently sleeping under bridges, in abandoned buildings, in office hallways, or any place that is warm. Many come to the Pearl Street Center for a shower and to get mail, use the phone, and enjoy a hot coffee and snack. They share with me, as director of the center, how tough it is some nights.

Our community has an opportunity to remedy this longstanding need. Doing so will also significantly reduce the burdens on the Jones, McGee, and hospital emergency room use. Co-Act, a local nonprofit organization, is facilitating the cot shelter initiative in collaboration with the Salvation Army, Continuum of Care members, and volunteers.

The Berkshire Emergency Winter Cot Shelter will be open soon with your help from 7 pm to 7 am, and remain open until April 30. Our goal is have a group of trained volunteers who would work alongside experienced staff. Can you volunteer an evening once a week or twice a month? Or can you help us with our fund-raising drive for $20,000 to cover expenses for our first year?

—Paul Deslauriers, Director of Co-Act and Pearl Street Center
paul@co-act.org, 413-232-7888

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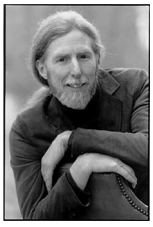

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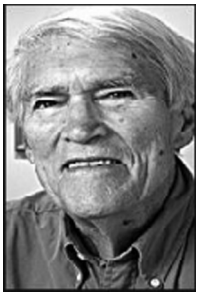

Remembering Lewis Scheffey

Lewis Scheffey, Monterey artist, investment advisor, and protector of Berkshire landscapes, died on November 6 at his home in Monterey. He was 88.

Lew was born in Philadelphia, PA, on January 31, 1924, the eldest of five children of Dr. Lewis C. Scheffey and Anna Thun Scheffey. He grew up in Merion, PA, and graduated from the Haverford School, where he was a member of the all-schoolboy crew team. He attended Williams College.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Lew interrupted his college studies to enlist in the Marine Corps and received officer training at Dartmouth College. During WWII he was stationed on Truk Island (now known as Chuuk State in Micronesia) in the Caroline Islands of the Western Pacific. On his return after the war, he completed his studies at Williams and graduated with the class of 1946.

He began his career working for Textile Machine Works in Wyomissing, PA, one of three companies, along with Berkshire Hosiery and Narrow Fabrics, founded by his maternal grandfather, Ferdinand Thun, a German immigrant and industrialist. In 1950, Lew married Caroline (Lynn) Cox, of Princeton Junction, NJ, the daughter of Caroline and Howard Cox, the publisher of the Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy books written and illustrated by Johnny Gruelle. Lew and Lynn built a modernist, cutting-edge home on a hill in the midst of an apple orchard overlooking the Schuylkill River in Leesport, PA. They had three sons, Thomas, Stephen, and Daniel.

Lew moved back to Merion with his family in 1957, and he began his work in the investment business in Philadelphia. He completed graduate study in economics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and worked for Delaware Management and Delaware Investments a group of Philadelphia-based mutual funds, where he was instrumental in launching the Delta Trend Fund, which focused on emerging technology companies.

In the early 1960s, Lewis studied art history, visual literacy, and artistic traditions at the Barnes Foundation under Violette de Mazia. His study at the Barnes was a transformative experience and launched his life as an artist. He worked for the rest of his life in both oil and watercolors in the "plein air" tradition. One of his favorite subjects was the landscapes of the Berkshires.

In the 1970s, he embarked on new investment ventures in California, and married the former Velma DeBoer, a teacher in San Francisco, where they lived briefly. Lew had, however, left his heart in the Berkshires and returned to Massachusetts with plans to settle near his family's land in Monterey and New Marlborough. He purchased a farm in Monterey on Wellman Road that was slated for development. Later he purchased, from the widow of Eugene Ormandy, former conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Ormandys' 150-acre summer residence, Fiddletop. Much of this acreage was conserved in perpetuity, and the rest Lew divided and sold to "abutting" neighbors, thereby preserving all the land.

After the sudden death of his second wife, he married Joyce Skeyhill Brown, also a fierce advocate of rural land preservation. Over the years, they have made gifts of hundreds of acres of pristine land and development rights in the southern Berkshires, working with the Trustees of Reservation, the Monterey and New Marlborough Land Trusts, and the Berkshire Natural Resources Council.

In 1981, Lew and Joyce purchased the Monterey General Store, which they owned for twenty years. Very active in Monterey civic life, Lew spearheaded the fundraising effort to rebuild the Monterey Volunteer Firehouse and was President of the Board of Directors of Gould Farm. In 1992, he was named President of the Board of Directors for the Berkshire Natural Resources Council after the untimely death of his close friend and BNRC cofounder Fred Crane. He was also a founding member of the Monterey Land Trust.

Lew is survived by his wife, Joyce, of Monterey, his first wife, Lynn, of Princeton, NJ, and his sister Cornelia St. John of Berkeley, CA; sons Thomas, of Bolton, CT, Stephen, of Boulder, CO, and Daniel of New York City; stepdaughter Kristin Brown, of New Paltz, NY, and stepson Jason Brown of Monterey; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and two step-great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his sister Julia Buckman; his brother, Andrew Scheffey, on March 19, 2012; and his sister Hildegard (Bootsie) Ryals on November 1, 2012.

The family is planning a memorial celebration for Lew and his paintings in May 2013. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Lew's memory to Gould Farm, Monterey, MA, and/or to the Monterey Church, United Church of Christ.

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Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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Remembering Lois Irene Ryder

Lois Ryder—wife, mother, volunteer, artist—died at home on November 6, 2012, after a year and a half ordeal with cancer.

She was born on December 5, 1932, to George and Marion Kisselbrock, Sr., and raised in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Following her marriage to John "Jack" Ryder in 1952, they designed and built their home together, from the ground up, in Monterey.

As her five children were growing up, she volunteered as a Brownie, then Girl Scout leader, a den mother and Cub Scout Leader, as well as a 4-H Leader. She was the consummate homemaker who loved to bake, sew, and knit. Her passion was art, and scratchboard was her favorite medium. Awards from local competitions were many, and she was recognized as an outstanding artist in the National Parks competitions and various national miniature societies. She taught art classes, was published in magazines and books, and was a signature member in the Copley Society of Boston, an active member of the Housatonic Valley Art League and Kent Art Association, and a member of the Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, DC, as well as a past President of the Monterey Cultural Council.

Those who knew her well relied on her calming presence, strong sense of right, get-up-and-go attitude, and organizational skills.

She leaves behind her husband, John, and five children—Sharon Ordeman, Karen Consolati, Charlene Keilty, Shawn Ryder, and Scott Ryder—along with their spouses and significant others; four grandchildren, Ben, Austin, Darren, and Evan; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her two brothers, George, Jr., and Donald Kisselbrock.

Donations in Lois's memory may be made to HospiceCare in the Berkshires through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

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Remembering Wilma Vosburgh

Wilma Vosburgh, 93, of Main Street South Egremont, beloved wife of the late Orville E. Vosburgh, passed away at home on November 2.

She was born in Mt. Washington on August 7, 1919, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Chase Curtiss. She moved to South Egremont as a child, graduating from the former Searles High School at age 15. She was employed in the accounting department of General Electric during World War II and married in February 1946.

Devoting her life to her family, Wilma was an avid reader, gardener, quilter, painter, and crafter.

She was predeceased by sisters Marion and Iona and brothers Willard, Robert, Leigh, William, and infant Raymond.

She is survived by sons Allan of Honolulu Hawaii, David of Egremont, and Bruce, her full time caretaker for the past five years. In addition to seven grandchildren she leaves her beloved sister-in-law Leona Chamberlain and her niece, the former Beth Seely of Sheffield, whom she raised from infancy.

Remembering Violet Hardisty

Mrs. Violet Louise Hardisty, 89, formerly of Monterey, died Friday, November 9, 2012, at Fairview Commons in Great Barrington. Born May 24, 1923, in Stockbridge, Mass., Violet was the daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth Harrington Gilmore. She was a graduate of Lee High School, class of 1941.

Violet was a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a longtime member and past officer of the Monterey Grange #291; she was also a member of the Berkshire South Pomona Grange #25, as well as the ladies auxiliary of the James A. Modolo Post 8348 VFW in Great Barrington.

She is survived by her son, Richard C. Hardisty, and his wife, Patricia, of Sheffield and by her grandchildren, Heather and Richard, Jr. She also leaves several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Robert A. Hardisty, on September 26, 1998, along with two sisters, Gladys Lamb and Ethel Ketchen, and two brothers, Arthur and Robert Gilmore.

Donations in Violet's memory may be made to the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad or to HospiceCare in the Berkshires through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances may be sent to the family through finnertyandstevens.com.

The family of Violet Hardisty would like to thank the staff at Fairview Commons, HospiceCare in the Berkshires, and the members of the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad for the wonderfully compassionate way they cared for Violet.

❊

Dennis J. Downing

Attorney at Law

❊

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Letter from Reed College

To the Editor:
Greetings Monterey!

I'm in Portland, Oregon right now, nearing the end of my first semester at Reed College (which has approximately 1400 total students and a griffin mascot). It's been a dramatic transition to city living after spending my entire childhood in Monterey. My goal is a degree in political science.

Fall here has been just as brilliantly colored as in Monterey, but much warmer and wetter. I like Reed, which is a place of open minds and predominantly academic pursuits. For instance, "Reedies" eschew a high-octane college-sports establishment: earlier this year I watched our men's basketball team lose by a 3-to-1 margin to a nearby Bible school's JV team.

I might as well cut to the chase. My primary purpose in writing this letter is not to talk about my personal life, but about a new project I have begun with several other freshmen interested in political science. It's called Pragmatic Progressives for America, and its slogan is: "A crowdsourced progressive think tank building ideas and activism for tomorrow's left. In solidarity with Occupy and Get Money Out." As far as I know, we are the first crowdsourced public policy think tank in the United States. "Crowdsourced" means that our think tank is powered by people across the country, including you. Our regular writers (including me) post analyses of bills, policy proposals, current events, and national or global issues, all from a left-of-center perspective. This helps provoke dialogue about feasible political solutions to present-day problems. Best of all, our website allows you to easily submit your own thoughts, proposals, and responses, which we then read and publish on a daily basis. The end goal of our project is to build grassroots progressive discourse and consensus on key issues. Eventually, we will create legislative blueprints together akin to a Paul Ryan plan for the left. But unlike the Ryan plan, they will be of the people, not of the special interests.

Why do we think this project is so important? Here is an explanatory quote from our website: "America is in the midst of seismic demographic shifts that have created a historic window of opportunity for progressives. If we play our cards right, we have a shot at implementing immense positive policy changes in the years ahead . . . [but] progressives have been reduced to playing defense. We defend public education, we defend infrastructure maintenance, we defend Medicare, we defend Social Security, and we defend women's reproductive rights. Let's face it: as long as liberals continue to merely embrace the status quo without also proposing fresh ideas, it will impair our ability to govern."

I hope you'll take a look at this new project and feel empowered to add your thoughts to a movement for progressive change. You can read and contribute ideas via Pragmatic Progressives for America at www.pragmaticprogressives.org.

—Jonah Carlson

Israel-Palestinian Issue

To the Editor
My sister and I have owned a house on Fairview Road for many years and always read the monthly paper.

We have followed the letter from Husten, Rodriguez and Salomon and the responses to that letter with great interest. The retort by the three original letter writers in the October edition leaves me puzzled. They quote Avram Burg, an Israeli personality, who since being resoundingly defeated in Israeli politics has made an abrupt about-face and is now best known as a consistent critic of the Israeli establishment, and would not be considered by most as a neutral voice in Middle-East politics. Americans for Peace Now, a left-leaning group with strongly held views opposed to the Israeli establishment, is a group some favor, but could hardly be called non-biased. As for reports and maps from the UN, a world agency regrettably well known for its legendary dislike of Israel, it is difficult to accept their reliability. Even their e-mail address, palestine 12@gmail.com, does not instill confidence as to your objectivity. It seems that the letter writers have an anti-Israeli agenda and I wish they could have given a more balanced report on this difficult issue.

—Danielle Feist Kinstlinger

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

December 1–January 12: *Mirrors of Winter: Light and Reflection to Brighten Winter Days*, group exhibition by local artists, Knox Gallery at Monterey Library. See p. 19.

Tuesday, December 4: Chair Yoga class with Connie Wilson, 10:30 am, Town Hall meeting room. Free to Monterey residents, $7 nonresidents.

Thursday, December 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, December 15: CET workshop on Winserts storm-window kits, an alternative to replacing single-pane windows, 11 am, Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield. See p. 8.

Monday, December 17: Adult book group will discuss *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Wednesday, December 19: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program on Monterey Community Center. Everyone welcome. See p. 11.

Monday, December 24:
Christmas Eve; Town Offices, Library closed. No Select Board meeting.
Christmas Eve service of story and song, 7 pm, Monterey Church. Everyone welcome!

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day; Town Offices, Library closed.

Monday, December 31: New Year's Eve; Town Offices, Library closed. No Select Board meeting.

Tuesday, January 1, 2013: New Year's Day; Town Offices, Library closed.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer
October 26 – November 25

High temp. (11/11)	64°
Low temp. (11/6)	17°
Avg. high temp.	47.8°
Avg. low temp.	31.9°
Avg. temp.	39.9°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.08 in.
Snowfall	3.1 in.

Precipitation occurred on 11 days.

Contributors

Thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions.

Jane Walsh & Kraig Petersen
Bonsai Cox
Georgianna Eschen
Dorothy Enlund
Fred & Shelley Emmel
Ken & Laurel Kahn
Martin Cherneff
Ann Lyons

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Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 8, 13, Tristian Goik, 4, 23;
George Emmons, 16; Bonner McAllester, 14; Leah Weisgal, 8.

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